

bill to the Legislature, the Legislative Council, the Exec Board of the Legislative Council, members of the Legislature. We are audited as the Legislative Council, and that...the balance of the amendment is redundant, but regardless the provisions and what the amendment would do is say that those working papers for public records that are exempt or protected would, in any other situation other than the Legislative Council, would not be exempt. In other words they would basically...you'd have two classes of working papers then, those that would be nonpublic records that apply to Legislative Council, and then nonpublic records that apply to anyone else. And I think it's a bad precedent to set. If you have public records that are exempt, that they have protected status they have that for a reason. And no matter who has control over those, whatever form they're in they ought to retain that exemption, that status ought to be retained. And I think it ought to apply not only to the Legislative Council but to any other entity that enjoys those types of protections. I can think of, for example, records of the State Patrol for purposes of the kinds of documents that they enjoy a protection from the Public Records Law, that those...any working papers associated with that should not be made public to circumvent the protection that they currently hold. And that's what this bill is all about. You don't get around the protection by putting the records in a different form or manner or giving them to someone else as a custodian and then saying they are no longer exempt under the law. I mean that is a fallacy to say that somehow they have changed from nonpublic to public because of the form they're in, because of the individual who happens to have control over them at the time. And to say now in this amendment that the Legislative Council's records are going to be exempt, in terms of the working papers, but anyone else's would not be, I think, is to not hold those same exempt records to the level that we hold our own and I believe they should be. I believe they ought to be protected. Those working papers are exempt, just as the underlying record is exempt, and I would urge you to reject this amendment as well. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens and members. Senator Witek, would you answer a quick question for me, I have two quick questions. The first one is...I may be a little tired, I don't know, even though I had four days off. Is this